DC

3

The Joker

THE MAN WHO STOPPED LAUGHING

ROSENBERG
DI GIANDOMENICO
FRANCAVILLA
PRIANTO

TEEN+
DC.COM

THE DARK KNIGHT VS. HELL'S ELITE SOLDIER
BATMAN SPAWN
WRITTEN BY
TODD McFARLANE
ART BY
GREG CAPULLO &
TODD McFARLANE
A BLOCKBUSTER
PRESTIGE FORMAT
ONE-SHOT
DECEMBER
DC
30
image
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GOTHAM HARBOR.
KRSH
GET OUT HERE, CLOWN.
A young mime is called before the council of mimes.
I THINK YOU HAVE ME CONFUSED WITH SOMEONE ELSE.
They hand down their decision. He is to be expelled from the Grand Order of Mimes.
WHAM
Confused, he tries to understand their decision. "Was it something I said?"
OH, JASON. HOW I'VE MISSED YOU, MY SWEET BOY.

I @*#%$*# hate mimes so much.
WAP
IF YOU BOYS ARE GOING TO SQUABBLE, WOULD YOU MIND NOT SINKING MY YACHT?
THIS ISN'T A YACHT. IT'S A FERRY. A YACHT IS A SPECIFIC TYPE OF--
I DON'T GIVE A @!#$ WHAT IT'S CALLED!
CAREFUL! I PAID GOOD MONEY FOR THAT.
I think she poisoned me. I can feel myself dying.
OOOF!
I GOT IT! I SAVED THE DAY!

NO! NOT ON MY YACHT!
FERRY.
NOT ON MY FERRY!
I THOUGHT YOU WANTED HIM DEAD ALMOST AS MUCH AS I DID. NOW I FIND YOU TWO SHARING DRINKS. WE'RE GONNA HAVE WORDS WHEN I'M THROUGH WITH HIM.
SURPRISINGLY, THERE IS SOME STUFF YOU DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND, SAD ROBIN.
BUT I'M NOT GETTING BLAMED FOR YOUR KILLING SPREE.
WATCH WHAT YOU SAY TO ME HERE, QUINN.
OH... I THOUGHT YOU TWO WERE GOING TO KEEP TALKING.
But I'd rather be poisoned then shot, if I'm being honest.

I WAS JUST ADMIRING THE CRAFTSMANSHIP HERE.
DID YOU MAKE THIS, HARLEY?
IT'S EXCELLENT WORK. WHO IS THIS SUPPOSED TO BE? ELEANOR ROOSEVELT?
I WANT YOU TO THINK ABOUT THIS REAL CAREFULLY.
THAT COULD BE THE LAST JOKE YOU EVER MAKE.
YOU UNDERSTAND?
AH OHN EAWWY UHNNUHTHAAN. NOH.
SHUT THE @!€* UP.
UT OOH ATH EE A OOETHUN.
OH, THAHN OD.
The best jokes deliver a difficult truth, but hide it with a fun fiction.
WHAT?!
Without humor all we have left is being mean and lying.
WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING ABOUT NOW?!
ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO USE THAT BIG BAD GUN OF YOURS WITH DADDY WATCHING FROM UP THERE?
HE'LL BE MAD.

BATMAN, LISTEN TO ME--
HE'S NOT--?!
THAT'S MY CUE.
NO!
WHERE DID HE GO?
DOWN, IT SEEMS.

SKRACK
SKRACK
SKRACK
SKRACK
SKRACK
"BETWEEN THE TEMPERATURE OF THE WATER AND THE STATE HE WAS IN, I DON'T THINK HE'S COMING BACK UP."
"I HAVE TO FIND HIM."
"WHAT DOES IT MATTER? YOU WANTED HIM *DEAD*, HE'S *DEAD*."
"NO. I WANTED TO *KILL* HIM."

THE HALL OF DOOM.
YOU MOCK US?
WHATEVER DO YOU MEAN, GRODD? I GOT ALL DRESSED IN MY FINEST MONKEY SUIT FOR THIS.
WE AGREED THAT WE WERE OUT OF THE CLOWN BUSINESS. LET ME BLAST HIM, GRODD.
IT APPEARS NOBODY TOLD *THE* CLOWN.

NO, NO. NO NEED FOR THAT.
BUT BOSS, THEY STARTED IT.
THERE ARE PEOPLE YOU AIM GUNS AT AND THERE ARE PEOPLE YOU DO NOT.

A WISE CHOICE, JOKER. UNCHARACTERISTICALLY SO.
I HAVE MY MOMENTS.
I HAVEN'T FOUND THAT TO BE TRUE.
BUT, AS YOU CAN SEE, THE LEGION NO LONGER HAS NEED OF YOUR SERVICES.
MAYBE YOU HAVEN'T BEEN READING THE PAPERS, LEXY. BUT--

OH, WE'RE ALL AWARE OF YOUR ESCAPADES. YOU KILLED A FEW HOODLUMS IN DIFFERENT TIME ZONES AND NOW IMAGINE YOU HAVE EVOLVED INTO SOME LORD OF CRIME.
WHAT YOU FAIL TO REALIZE IS THAT YOU DIDN'T OUTGROW GOTHAM'S BRAND OF SMALL-MINDED PRANKSTERISM.
YOU MERELY EXPORTED IT.

I THINK YOU UNDERESTIMATE THE BAD PEOPLE OF GOTHAM.
I DON'T THINK YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT HE'S SAYING, SWEETIE.
PUNCHLINE IS CORRECT. IT'S NOT THAT WE HAVE NO USE FOR YOUR BRAND OF HIGH-JINKS. WE JUST HAVE NO USE FOR YOU, OLD FRIEND.
YOU DON'T CALL. YOU DON'T WRITE. I THOUGHT YOU DIED.
LET'S GO.
WE'LL MISS YOU.

THE GOTHAM RIVER.
YOU REMEMBER THAT, GRIFFIN? AFTER THE QUAKE, ALL THOSE BIG EELS CAME OUT AND WE COULD EAT--
SHUT YER MOUTH FOR A SECOND!
NOT ANOTHER ONE.
HELP ME GET HIM OUT OF THE WATER.
NO WAY HE'S ALIVE, ETHAN.
I KNOW THAT. BUT MAYBE HIS CREDIT CARD COMPANY DON'T.

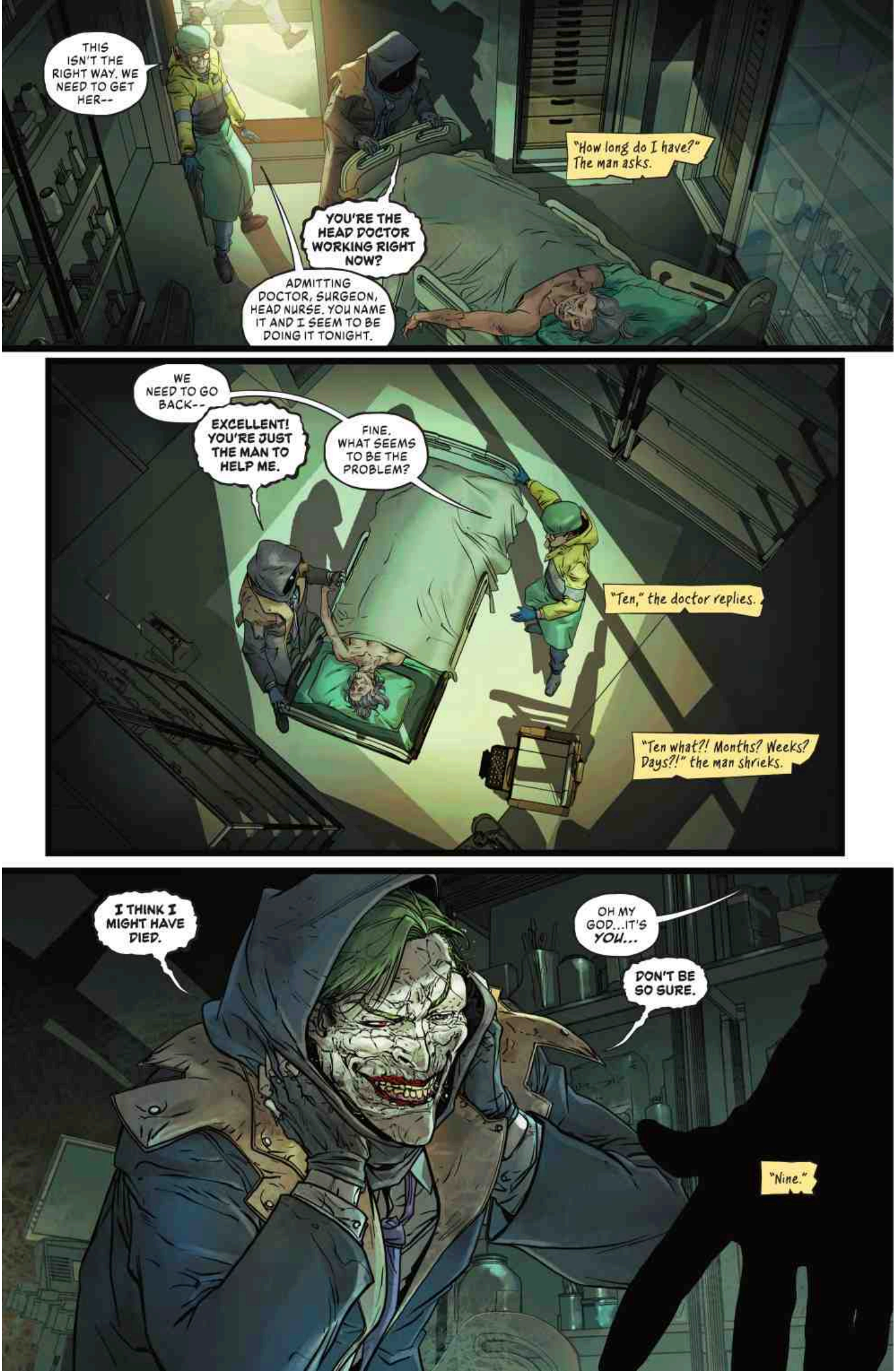
HOW LONG YOU THINK HE'S BEEN DEAD?
LEAST A FEW DAYS. LOOK AT HIS SKIN.
YOU OKAY, MISTER?
NOT GREAT.
EITHER OF YOU SEE A MARBLE BUST OF MARGARET THATCHER?
I THINK I LOST IT...
I think I would have preferred being shot to drowning, to tell the truth.
YOU NEED US TO TAKE YOU TO THE HOSPITAL?
HMM... THAT'S NOT A BAD IDEA. I WAS POISONED, YOU KNOW.
SAY... THAT'S A REALLY NICE LOOKING COAT.

GOTHAM GENERAL
HOSPITAL.

Man goes to see a doctor. Says he's been feeling ill.
NURSE! CAN I GET A HAND HERE? THIS WOMAN IS DEAD, AND WE NEED THIS BED.
HELLO?

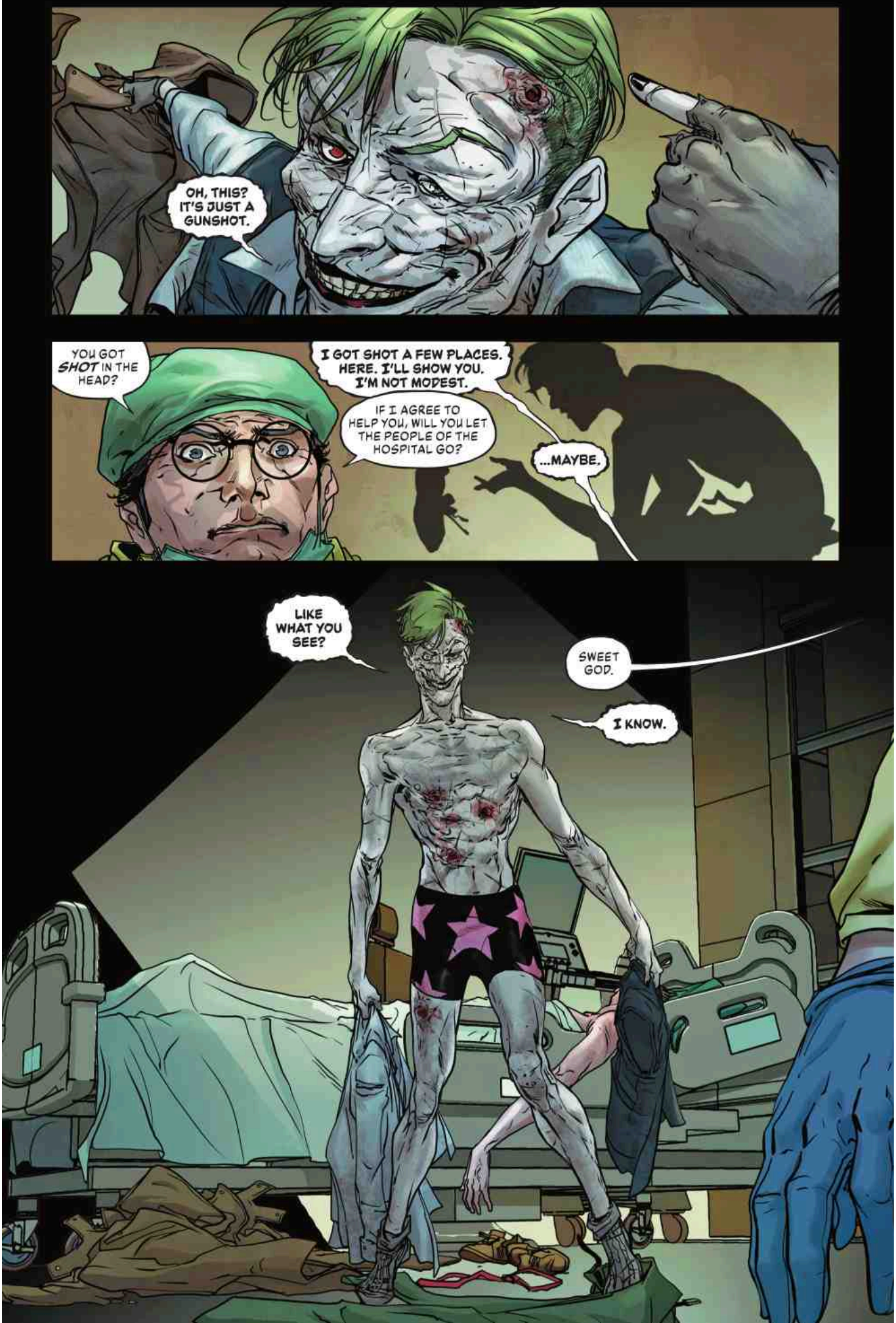
EXCUSE ME--
I'M A LITTLE BUSY RIGHT NOW. UNLESS YOU CAME TO HELP ME MOVE THIS WOMAN, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GO TO THE WAITING ROOM.
The doctor runs some tests and comes back with bad news.

BUSY NIGHT, HUH?
YEAH, THAT RED HOOD NUT SPENT THE NIGHT BUSTING THE HEADS OF EVERY GANG IN TOWN. IT'S LIKE KICKING OVER A HORNET'S NEST.
I LOVE THAT GUY.
"Sir, you're dying."


THIS ISN'T THE RIGHT WAY. WE NEED TO GET HER--
"How long do I have?" The man asks.
YOU'RE THE HEAD DOCTOR WORKING RIGHT NOW?
ADMITTING DOCTOR, SURGEON, HEAD NURSE. YOU NAME IT AND I SEEM TO BE DOING IT TONIGHT.
WE NEED TO GO BACK--
EXCELLENT! YOU'RE JUST THE MAN TO HELP ME.
FINE. WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE PROBLEM?
"Ten," the doctor replies.
"Ten what?! Months? Weeks? Days?!" the man shrieks.
I THINK I MIGHT HAVE DIED.
OH MY GOD...IT'S YOU...
DON'T BE SO SURE.
"Nine."

I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY.
ME NEITHER.
WELL, WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I WANT YOU TO TELL ME WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME.
I MEAN...I THINK YOU SUFFER FROM DELUSIONS OF SOME SORT.
YES, YES. BETTER DOCTORS THAN YOU HAVE SPOUTED THE SAME NONSENSE. WHAT ELSE?
I...
LET ME HELP YOU HERE. I WAS POISONED.
WHY DO YOU THINK YOU WERE POISONED?
BECAUSE EXES ARE COMPLICATED.
WELL, WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?
FIX ME.
RIGHT. ARE YOU NAUSEOUS?
NO.
ANY VOMITING? BLOOD IN YOUR URINE OR STOOL?
NOPE.
TROUBLE BREATHING?
ONLY WHEN I WAS UNDERWATER.
OKAY. I DON'T THINK YOU WERE POISONED.
WHY DON'T WE SEND YOU ON YOUR WAY SO I CAN--

I'D LOVE TO LEAVE NOW AFTER YOUR VERY THOROUGH CARE, DOCTOR, BUT I'M AFRAID I SWORE TO MYSELF THAT I'D ONLY DISARM THE BOMB I PLANTED IN THE BUILDING *AFTER* YOU CURED ME...
AND YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING.
THERE'S A BOMB?!
YOU BETTER GET ME SOME OF THOSE ANTIPOISON PILLS OR WHATEVER YOU GIVE TO PEOPLE.
I-I'M LOOKING. HANG ON.
HURRY. BEFORE I DIE.
HERE! HERE!
I HOPE THEY WORK.
NOW PLEASE, DISARM THE BOMB.
I STILL HAVE THIS WICKED HEADACHE.
...THAT MIGHT BE CAUSED BY SOMETHING ELSE?


OH, THIS? IT'S JUST A GUNSHOT.
YOU GOT SHOT IN THE HEAD?
I GOT SHOT A FEW PLACES. HERE. I'LL SHOW YOU. I'M NOT MODEST.
IF I AGREE TO HELP YOU, WILL YOU LET THE PEOPLE OF THE HOSPITAL GO?
...MAYBE.
LIKE WHAT YOU SEE?
SWEET GOD.
I KNOW.

THIRTY MINUTES LATER...
YOU'RE INCREDIBLY LUCKY I COULD GET THOSE CLEANED UP AND THERE WASN'T MORE MAJOR DAMAGE. BUT YOU REALLY DO NEED TO GET THEM IRRIGATED AND PROPERLY CARED FOR.
THE ONE I'M MOST CONCERNED ABOUT IS YOUR HEAD.
I BELIEVE THE BULLET IS STILL IN THERE.
IT'S BEEN ON MY MIND TOO. LET'S GET IT OUT, DOC.
ME?! I'M NOT A BRAIN SURGEON!
NOT WITH THAT ATTITUDE, YOU AREN'T.
EVEN IF I COULD DO IT, I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TOOLS.
YOU NEED TO HAVE MORE FAITH IN YOURSELF.
I DON'T HAVE ANESTHESIA!
YOU THINK I'D LET YOU KNOCK ME OUT? SORRY, DOC.
I DON'T KNOW YOU THAT WELL.
YOU REALLY EXPECT ME TO PERFORM BRAIN SURGERY, WITH THE WRONG TOOLS, IN A STORAGE CLOSET, BY MYSELF, WITHOUT ANESTHESIA?
LET'S GET ME PREPPED!

FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER...
AAAA

ACROSS TOWN.

WOOP WOOP

YOU IN THE HOOD, STOP WALKING.

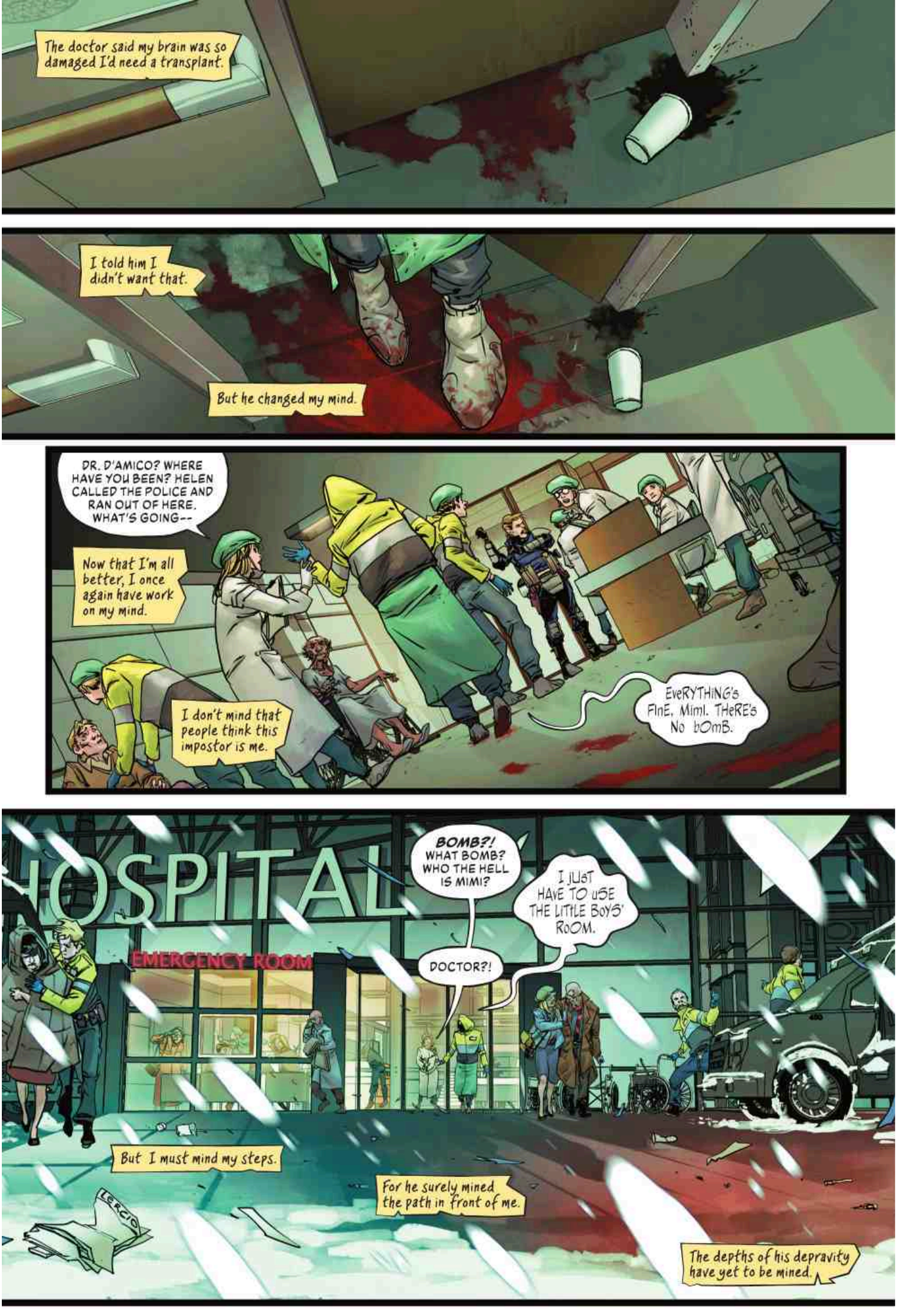
THERE A PROBLEM?
PICKED A HELL OF A NIGHT TO GO FOR A STROLL, BUDDY.
IS WALKING A CRIME NOW?
GCPD

A SMART GUY, HUH? HOW 'BOUT THIS. YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT A SERIES OF GANGLAND ATTACKS ACROSS THE CITY TONIGHT?
NOPE.
WHAT ABOUT TWO MEN FOUND DEAD BY THE RIVER ABOUT A MILE FROM HERE?
WHEN WAS THAT?!
IS THAT BLOOD?!
LET ME SEE YOUR HANDS, SCUMBAG!
OFFICERS, TRUST ME.
GET BACK IN YOUR CAR AND DRIVE AWAY.
ON YOUR KNEES!
GCPD

ALL UNITS, ALL UNITS.

WE HAVE A 10-79 AT MERCY GENERAL. S.W.A.T. AND BOMB SQUAD ARE EN ROUTE.

PROCEED WITH CAUTION.


The doctor said my brain was so damaged I'd need a transplant.
I told him I didn't want that.
But he changed my mind.
DR. D'AMICO? WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? HELEN CALLED THE POLICE AND RAN OUT OF HERE. WHAT'S GOING--
Now that I'm all better, I once again have work on my mind.
I don't mind that people think this impostor is me.
EVERYTHING'S FINE, MIMI. THERE'S NO BOMB.
HOSPITAL
EMERGENCY ROOM
BOMB?! WHAT BOMB? WHO THE HELL IS MIMI?
DOCTOR?!
I JUST HAVE TO USE THE LITTLE BOYS' ROOM.
But I must mind my steps.
For he surely mined the path in front of me.
The depths of his depravity have yet to be mined.

I hate him almost as much as I hate mimes.
OH. GOOD.
"IT'S NOT FUNNY ANYMORE"
MATTHEW ROSENBERG WRITER
ARIF PRIANTO COLORS
CARMINE DI GIANDOMENICO COVER
LEE BERMEJO, FELIPE MASSAFERA, AND LUDO LULLABI VARIANT COVERS
DAVE WIELGOSZ ASSOCIATE EDITOR
BEN ABERNATHY EDITOR
CARMINE DI GIANDOMENICO ARTIST
TOM NAPOLITANO LETTERS
NEXT: PAGING DR. JOKER

THE JOKER
THE CLOWN PRINCE OF CRIME HAS PULLED OFF HIS MOST HILARIOUS PRANK YET--KILLING ALL THE BIRDS IN GOTHAM CITY!
NOW, ALONGSIDE HIS TRUSTY HENCHMEN-- JACKANAPES AND GAGGY--
--THE JOKER IS MINDING HIS BUSINESS WHEN ANOTHER IN THE ENDLESS STREAM OF SO-CALLED SUPERHEROES SHOWS UP TO RUIN THE DAY.
IT'S A WHOLE LOTTA WOMAN WHO GOES BY THE NAME BIG BARDA!
SOMEONE BETTER CALL THE DOCTOR... BECAUSE HE IS LOVESICK!
WITH ALL THE HORRORS YOU'VE INFLICTED ON THESE PEOPLE, I DON'T KNOW WHY NOBODY DID THIS BEFORE.
YOUR REIGN OF TERROR ENDS TONIGHT!
GOSH, SHE SURE KNOWS A LOT ABOUT ME. THAT'S A GOOD SIGN. I WONDER IF SHE EVER DATES MEN WHO ARE SHORTER THAN HER...
FRAN CAVIL 4.F.22
"BUT DOCTOR, I AM THE JOKER!"
STORY: MATTHEW ROSENBERG
ART: FRANCESCO FRANCAVILLA
LETTERING: TOM NAPOLITANO
EDITING: DAVE WIELGOSZ

YOU'RE GOING TO DIE, FUNNY MAN.
YOU REALLY THINK I'M FUNNY?
NO.
I CAN'T LET HER KNOW THAT HURT.
LAST TIME I SHOWED WEAKNESS IN FRONT OF A WOMAN SHE NEVER SPOKE TO ME AGAIN.*
OWWW.
*HE'S REFERRING TO THE TIME HE FELL IN LOVE WITH THE GHOST OF JOAN OF ARC IN ALL-HAUNTED ROMANCE #133. --"ALL I DO IS READ COMICS" DAVE.
NOT AGAIN.

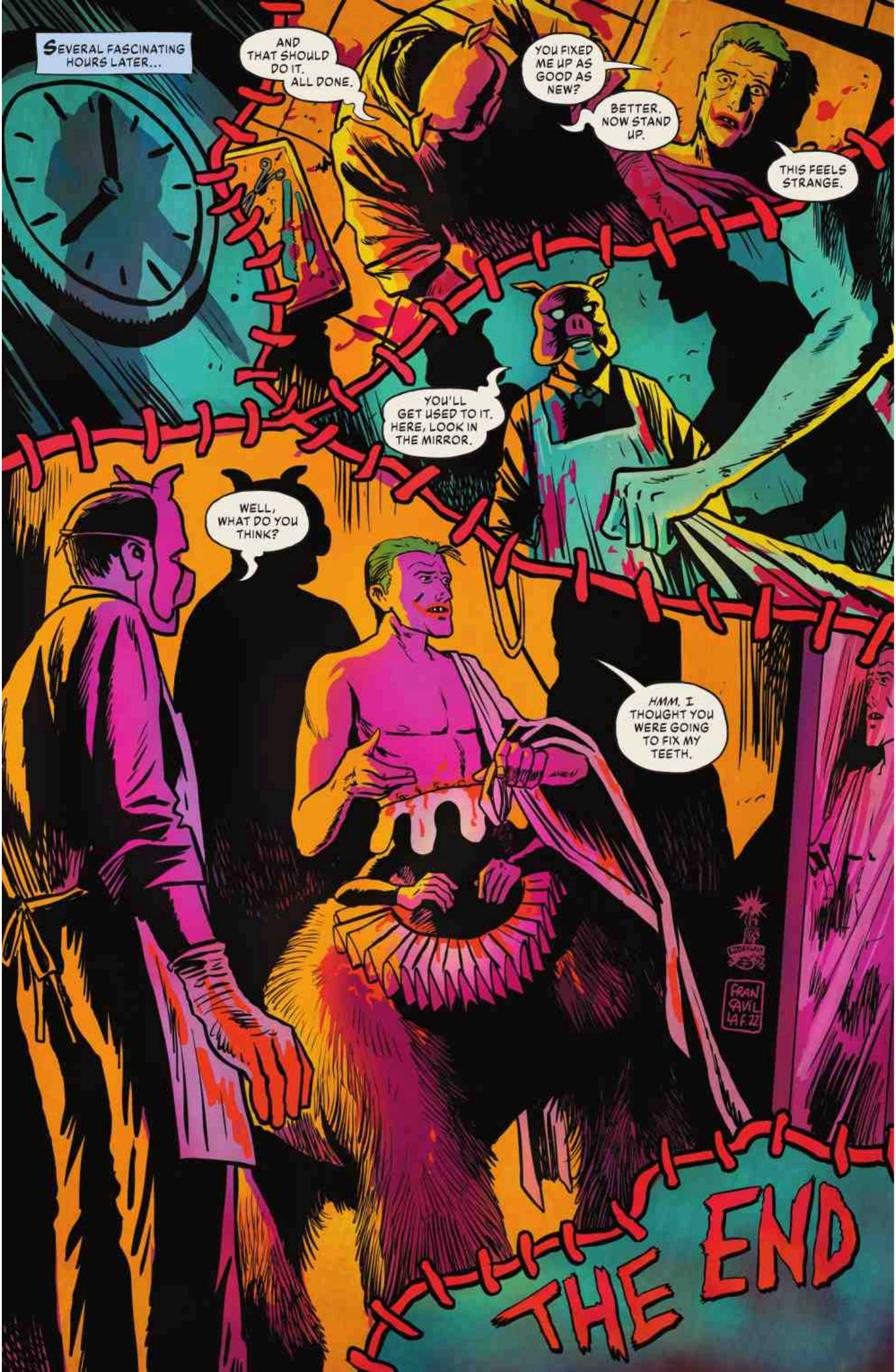
YOU SHOULD BOTH CONSIDER A NEW LINE OF WORK.
VERY HARD FOR GORILLA TO FIND JOB IN THIS ECONOMY.
YOU THINK BOSS IS OKAY, JACKANAPES?
OF COURSE NO.
Did she leave?

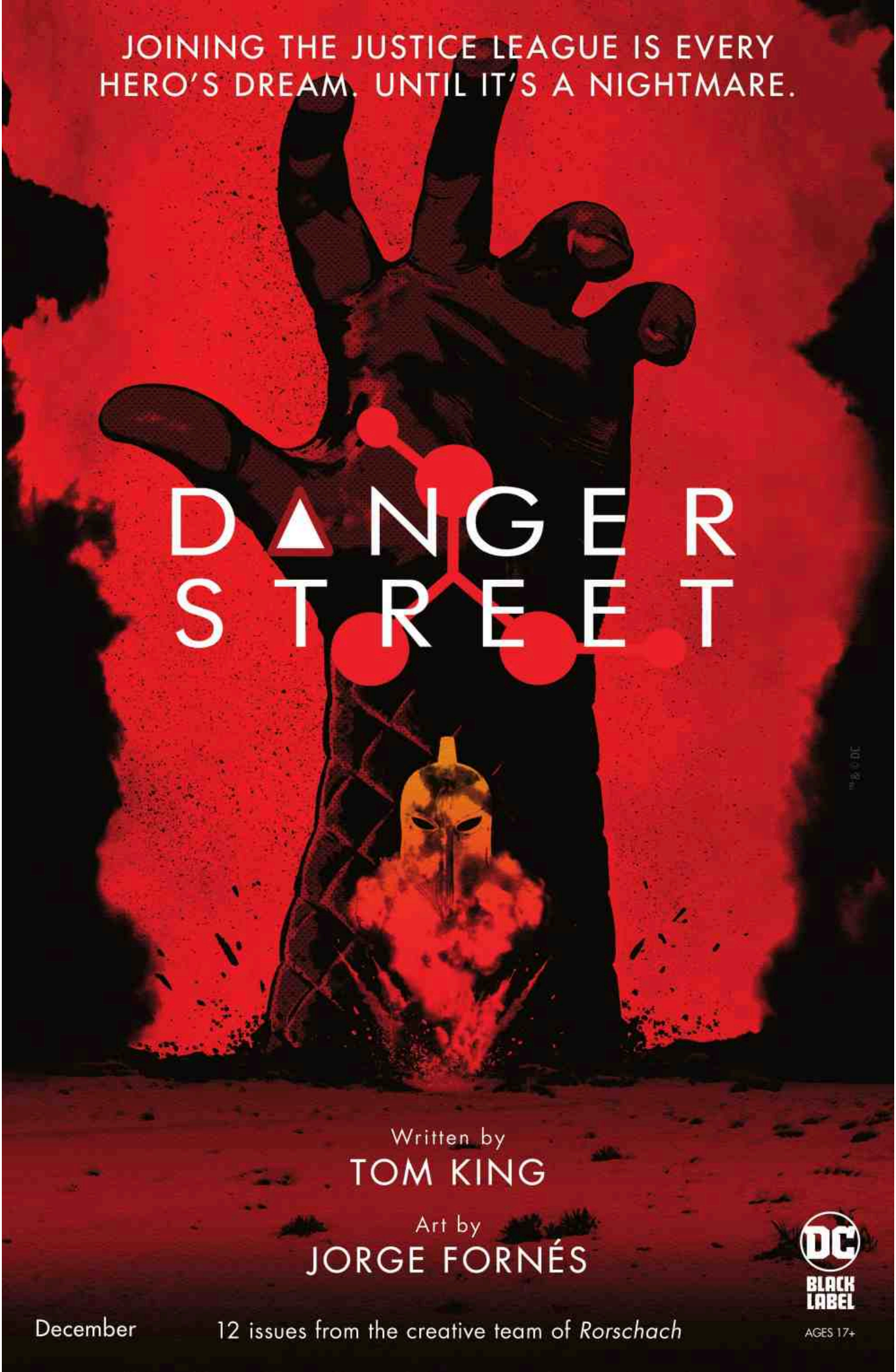
A SHORT TIME LATER AT GOTHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL...
AND GET THIS, HE WASN'T A REPTILE AT ALL. HE WAS JUST A RUDE GUY WITH A SKIN CONDITION.
THEN WHY DID HE LIVE IN THE SEWER?
ARE YOU A DOCTOR?
MY FRIEND NEEDS HELP.
OH NO. WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM, LI'L FELLA?
WHAT THE @!#$ DID YOU JUST CALL ME?
BOSS HIT BY TRAIN.
HOLY HELL! IS THAT A TALKING GORILLA!
YEAH, OBVIOUSLY. CAN WE GET A DIFFERENT DOCTOR OVER HERE?
A SMART ONE?
SON, LOOK AT HIM.
THIS MAN IS VERY DEAD.
YOU'RE NOT LOOKING SO GREAT YOURSELF, DOC.

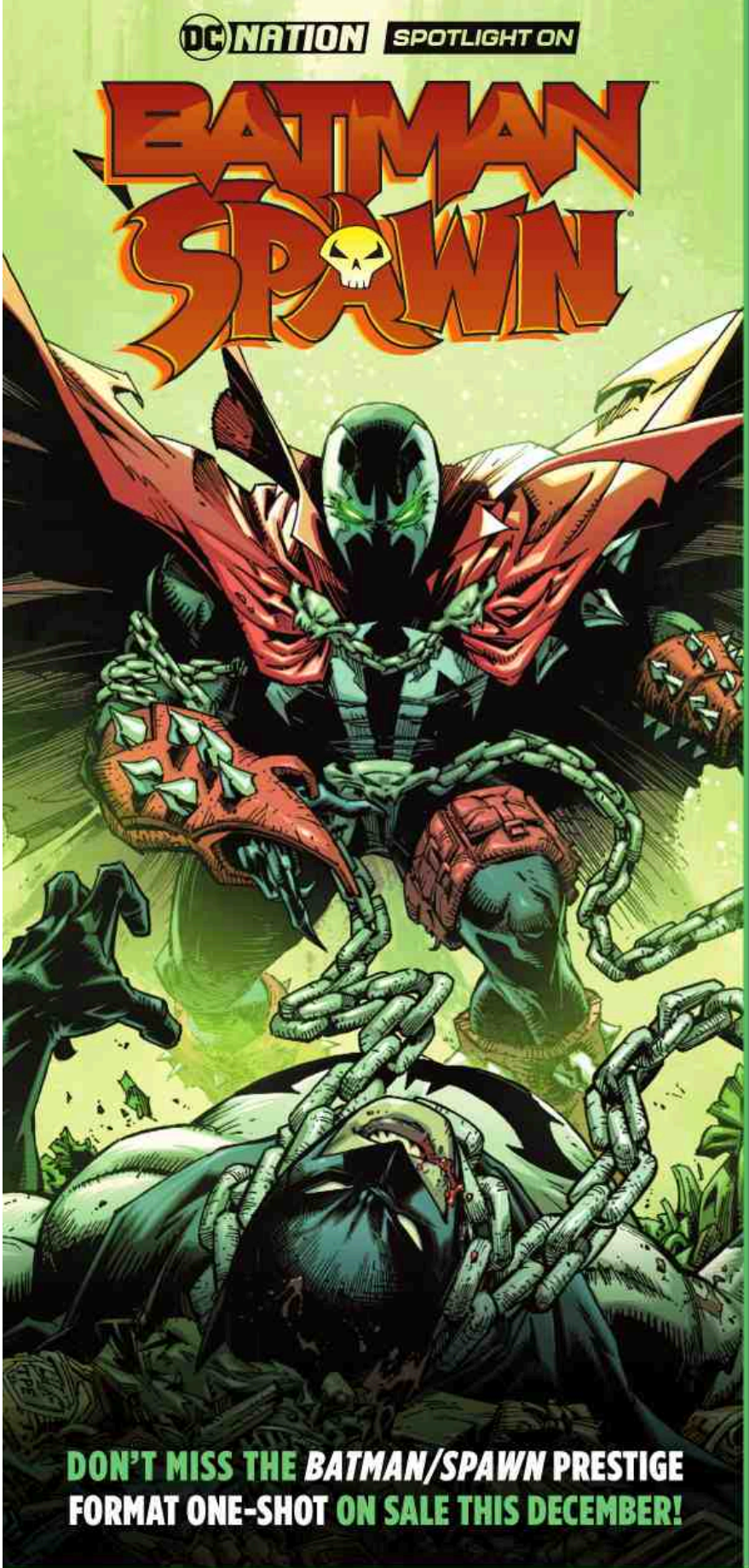
DROP THE CORPSE NOW!
NO GORILLAS IN THE HOSPITAL!
NOT DEAD YET, THANK YOU!
NO COPS ANYWHERE!
WHY DOES STUFF LIKE THIS KEEP HAPPENING TO ME?
EXCUSE ME.
IS THERE SOMEWHERE I'M SUPPOSED TO SIGN IN OR...?
AAAAH!

IF YOU COULD JUST GIVE ME THE PAPERS, I WILL BE OUT OF YOUR HAIR...
LOOK OUT! THE DEAD GUY HAS A KNIFE!
WAIT, IT'S YOUR PEN.
I HAVE INSURANCE. YOU CAN'T DENY ME TREATMENT. I KNOW MY RIGHTS!
WELL. THIS ISN'T GREAT.
GAGGY, JACKANAPES, DO EITHER OF YOU KNOW A DOCTOR?
EMERGENCY ROOM
GOTHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL

HALF AN HOUR LATER...
I'M BACK, BOSS. I COULDN'T FIND DR. ELLIOT.
OR DR. THORNE.
OR DR. FRIES.
OR DR. STRANGE.
OR DR. CRANE.
OR DR. QUINZEL.
OR DR. ISLEY.
OR DR. ARKHAM.
OR DR. LANGSTROM.
OR DR. DESMOND.
E.R.
NO SMOKING
OR DR. SARTORIUS.
OR DR. HELLFERN.
BUT I BROUGHT THE NEXT BEST THING.
I SEE THE PROBLEM. YOUR FRIEND HAS BECOME A GORILLA. I CAN FIX THIS.
GET ME A BLOWTORCH AND SOME AMPHETAMINES.
COMICS CODE
NO, PROFESSOR PYG. YER SUPPOSED TO SAVE HIM.
NO. HE'S DEAD.
WHY DO PEOPLE KEEP SAYING THAT?!
INTERESSSSTING. MAYBE NOT DEAD.
IF YOU WANT ME TO HELP HIM, WE'LL HAVE TO MOVE FAST. WHERE ARE HIS LEGS?
OOPS.
NO LOWER HALF, EH? I WILL HAVE TO IMPROVISE.
DON'T WORRY, LARGE MONKEY AND SMALL MAN, I WILL MAKE YOUR BOSS BETTER THAN EVER.


SEVERAL FASCINATING HOURS LATER...
AND THAT SHOULD DO IT. ALL DONE.
YOU FIXED ME UP AS GOOD AS NEW?
BETTER. NOW STAND UP.
THIS FEELS STRANGE.
YOU'LL GET USED TO IT. HERE, LOOK IN THE MIRROR.
WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
HMM. I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO FIX MY TEETH.
FRAN GAVIL LA F.22
THE END


JOINING THE JUSTICE LEAGUE IS EVERY HERO'S DREAM. UNTIL IT'S A NIGHTMARE.
DANGER STREET
Written by
TOM KING
Art by
JORGE FORNÉS
DC
BLACK LABEL
December
12 issues from the creative team of *Rorschach*
AGES 17+



INTERVIEW WITH
GREG CAPULLO

Two comics icons meet once again in *Batman/Spawn*, a Prestige format one-shot by legendary Spawn creator Todd McFarlane and superstar Batman artist Greg Capullo.

What's exciting about Batman and Spawn coming together once again?

It's about a good time! It's about making a comic book that people wait and long for. These are the milestone events that people look forward to. If you want to know what *Batman/Spawn* is about... it's about bombastic bombardment of fun!

Why is this exciting for longtime fans as well as new readers—or fans who have been away from comics?

I've seen comments on the art I've been teasing online. People have been saying, "This is making me feel like a teenager again," and it does. It's that sense of nostalgia, and when you see something that brings you back, you want to go on that ride. That's what *Batman/Spawn* is. For the newcomers it's also going to be something really cool, and it'll become theirs. So it's a win-win on both sides of the fence.

What's it like collaborating with Todd McFarlane again?

For me, the best times I've had working in comics have been with Todd McFarlane. Working with him again is like putting on comfortable shoes that have already been broken in. We're doing exactly what we used to do in the same way we used to do it. Also working with Todd, who's a fellow artist, he understands the mechanics of it all and what will and won't work. I'm loving every minute of it.

Do you have a favorite page from the one-shot?

There are plenty of them. The most recent one for me is the first dramatic shot of our two main characters. It's a double-page spread with Spawn and his chains and Batman with his batarang. So far that's the one that really sums up the Batman-Spawn crossover.

What do you want people to walk away from this comic thinking?

I want people to say, "Man, comics are a blast!" When I was a kid and discovered my first spinner rack and saw all the colors and heroes...the allure that captivated me and drew me in was unescapable. When fans grab this, that's what I want them to feel.

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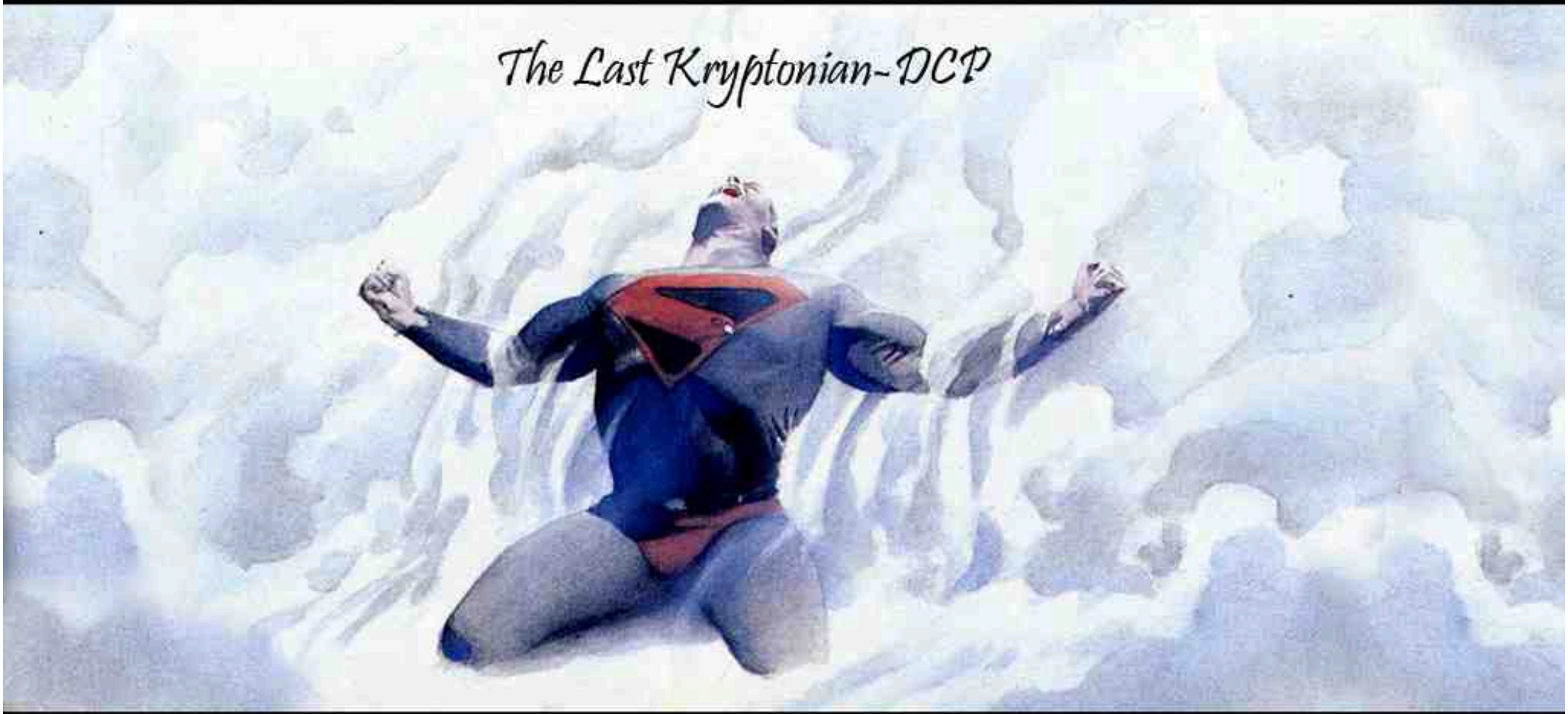
The Last Kryptonian-DCP